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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/749,997 | 12/27/2000 | Roy Kenneth Chrisop | SLA.0290 | 6874 |

7590 08/18/2004
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EXAMINER

DIVINE, LUCAS

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
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2624

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/749,997

Applicant(s)

CHRISOP ET AL.

Examiner

Lucas J Divine

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1 and 7 are objected to because of the following informalities: the method claims do not include appropriate step language. The claimed method would be more complete if the word 'comprising' was replaced with 'comprising the steps of'. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1 – 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lobiondo (US 5287194).

Regarding claim 1, Lobiondo teaches **a network of connected output devices** (Fig. 1, col. 3 line 5); **entering a print job at a first network device** (col. 3 lines 37-40 and col. 6 lines 26-27, wherein a job is input to a first network output device can be a print server, printer, or other output device with memory and processing unit); **querying other devices to determine if their capable based on device characteristics and pending print jobs** (col. 2 lines 51-54 and col. 4 lines 46-52 and col. 5 lines 51-54, wherein jobs are scheduled to available and capable

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printers); **transmitting print jobs to each capable output device** (Fig. 4 ref. no. 450, col. 2 lines 58-62 and col. 5 lines 54 and 55, wherein jobs are transmitted to each location); **reporting the completion of print job copies by the output device** (col. 5 line 3 and col. 7 line 2, wherein the reporting of the availability status includes whether or not the output device has completed its current job); and **determining the number of copies to be printed by each device** (col. 3 lines 48-50 and col. 4 lines 54-68, wherein number of copies and scheduling is determined for a plurality of printers).

Regarding claim 2, which depends from claim 1, Lobiondo further teaches **waiting for all the output devices reporting** (col. 4 line 51, wherein actions are taken after reports come back from the printing devices) **to optimize the number of copies printed by each output device** (col. 3 lines 48-50 and col. 4 lines 54-68, wherein efficient scheduling is cited for the allocations of print jobs portions).

Regarding claim 3, which depends from claim 1, Lobiondo further teaches **optimizing the number of copies to be printed after a predetermined time wherein the number of copies is allocated only among the first device and those that reported** (col. 3 lines 48-50 and col. 4 line 35-36, wherein if the user selects a maximum time for the job, the scheduler would not wait longer than a set time to determine availability of devices and would allocate jobs efficiently based on the ones that did report as available).

Regarding claim 4, which depends from claim 1, Lobiondo further teaches **the number of copies exceeding a certain number** to distribute the printing (col. 4 line 17, wherein there is a specific number according to each system that would determine the job to be large); **initiating print on itself and other output devices that have reported completion of their first copy**

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(col. 5 lines 3-4); and **the final determining of number of copies which each output device is to print after all of the other output devices have reported** (col. 3 lines 48-50 and col. 4 lines 51 and 56 and col. 5 lines 51-54, wherein the final allocation of jobs is completed once all locations have been checked for availability).

Regarding claim 5, which depends from claim 1, Lobiondo further teaches that **the entering of print jobs includes loading and storing the job on a network output device** (col. 3 lines 37-41, wherein print jobs are stored in a print server device which could be located on any output device with a processing unit and a storage unit).

Regarding claim 6, which depends from claim 1, Lobiondo further teaches **said determining can be performed by a first network output device** (col. 3 lines 37-46, wherein the print scheduler functions can all be located on any network device with processing unit and storage means).

Regarding claim 7, claim 7 includes the same limitations as claims 1, 5, and 6. Lobiondo teaches all of the limitations of claims 1, 5, and 6 as rejected above. Claim 7 is therefore rejected for the reasons stated in the rejections of claims 1, 5, and 6.

Regarding claim 8, which depends from claim 7, claim 8 includes the same limitations as claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 as included in independent claim 7. Lobiondo teaches all of the limitations of claims 1, 2, 5, and 6. Claim 8 is therefore rejected for the reasons stated in the rejections of claims 1, 2, 5, and 6.

Regarding claim 9, which depends from claim 7, claim 9 includes the same limitations as claims 1, 3, 5, and 6 as included in independent claim 7. Lobiondo teaches all of the limitations

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of claims 1, 3, 5, and 6. Claim 9 is therefore rejected based on the rejections of claims 1, 3, 5, and 6.

Regarding claim 10, which depends from claim 7, claim 10 includes the same limitations as claims 1, 4, 5, and 6 as included in independent claim 7. Lobiondo teaches all of the limitations of claims 1, 4, 5, and 6. Claim 10 is therefore rejected based on the rejections of claims 1, 4, 5, and 6.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Please give special consideration to the review of these patent documents.

US-6,687,018 Leong et al. 2-3-2004: teaches a system and method for distributing print jobs, including: entry of print jobs, determining capability according to job characteristics and pending jobs, maximum wait times for jobs, transmission of print jobs, and reporting of completed jobs;

US-6,654,136 Shimada 11-25-2003: teaches allowing a plurality of printers to print a document including determining copies to be printed by each printer;

US-6,498,656 Mastie et al. 12-24-2002: teaches a rule based determining of capable printers for print jobs;

US-6,466,326 Shima 10-15-2002: teaches a printer and printing method including reporting of completed jobs;

US-6,348,971 Owa et al. 2-19-2002: teaches a system and method for selecting optimum printing of jobs including: entry of print jobs, determining capability according to job

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characteristics and pending print jobs at output devices, transmitting jobs to capable printers, reporting of printer status including completed jobs, and determining optimum printers for portions of print jobs;

US-5,995,721 Rourke et al. 11-30-1999: teaches a distributed printing system including printing portions of print jobs on a plurality of printers; and

US-5,574,831 Grenda 11-12-1996: teaches using an array of printing devices to print large jobs at a higher speed.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lucas J Divine whose telephone number is 703-306-3440. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:00am - 4:30pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on 703-308-7452. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Lucas J Divine
Examiner
Art Unit 2624

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